File Code: 1950; 2700
Date: January 26, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (36 CFR 220.4(e)(1)). I request your input on the Oklahoma Ranger Districts' proposed authorization of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma project described below.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma proposes to install approximately 3 miles of fiber optic cable in previously disturbed public rights-of-way along state highway OK-59 in different locations on National Forest System lands in LeFlore County, Oklahoma (see enclosed map). The proposed line would be installed with a combination of plowing and directional boring with minimal open trenches. Any ditches or creeks will be directionally bored. No trees will be removed. Additional boring is proposed to avoid any areas with a concern of destabilizing step grades. The 96-strand fiber optic cable will be installed in a 1.25-inch HDPE SDR11 conduit and placed within 45 feet of centerline of the highway. This analysis is only for National Forest System lands. The purpose of this action is to provide improved communication connection to the area.

Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jona Tucker by phone at (580) 371-6751, by email at jona.tucker@usda.gov, or address written comments to the District Ranger at the address listed above. Your comments would be most helpful if received by February 10, 2021.

Sincerely,

PATTI TURPIN
Digitally signed by PATTI TURPIN
Date: 2021.01.25 13:03:08 -06'00'

PATTI TURPIN
District Ranger

Enclosure